

MSGNO 80 (STXX) S4A *08/09/82* *01:07*
ZCZC 06:02:33Z (ST)

UNCLASSIFIED

CO-VE BORDER

STATE

STAT

82 9403428 SUR

NC 9403428

TOR: 072358Z SEP 82

RR RUEAII B

ZNR UUUUU ZUC STATE ZZH

STU3900

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DE RUESRS #8808 2502152

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R 072134Z SEP 82

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2199

INFO RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 6219

BT

EZ1:

UNCLAS CARACASS 8808

EZ2:

E.O. 12356:N/A

TAGS:PEPR,PINS, VE CO

SUBJECT: GOV HOPES FOR SOLUTION TO CRIME ALONG
VENEZUELAN-COLOMBIAN BORDER

1. VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA, PEDRO CONTRERAS PULIDOSTATED IN A PRESS INTERVIEW ON AUGUST 30 THAT FOLLOWING BILATERAL MEETINGS WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE ON THE SUBJECT HE HOPED VENEZUELAN AND COLOMBIAN POLICE FORCES MIGHT IMPROVE COOPERATION IN DEALING WITH KIDNAPPINGS IN THE BORDER AREA. CONTRERAS NOTED THAT KIDNAPPING WAS A COMMON CRIME IN THE REGION AND THAT "THROUGH COMBINED ACTIVITIES OF BOTH POLICE FORCES" STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. CONTRERAS ALSO NOTED THAT THE GOV HOPED THAT COLOMBIAN EFFORTS TO TALK TO TERRORISTS AND OTHER SUBVERSIVES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION SINCE MANY OF THE KIDNAPPINGS SUPPOSEDLY ARE COMMITTED BY COLOMBIAN GUERRILLAS.

2. IN THE MEANTIME YET ANOTHER BIG KIDNAPPING CASE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN APURE STATE IN THE BORDER REGION WITH COLOMBIA. EIGHT ARMED MEN (COLOMBIANS ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR) ATTACKED AND KIDNAPPED A RANCHER, JOSE RUIZ ZAPATA, ON SEPT 2 AND ARE HOLDING HIM FOR 50 MILLION BOLIVARS RANSOM. THE CASE IS BEING HANDLED BY THREE VENEZUELAN SECURITY FORCES (PTJ, NATIONAL GUARD AND DISIP) WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF DAS AND F2FROM COLOMBIA.

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